

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3406

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7478

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, SP

SUBJ: UP-DATE ON PROBABLE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS IN EVENT OF FRANCO'S
DEATH

REF: MADRID 4876 OF AUGUST 1, 1974

1. GABRIEL CISNEROS, SUB-DIRECTOR GENERAL AT PRESIDENCY AND
SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON PROBABLE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS IN
REFTEL A YEAR AGO, TODAY CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF GOS IS
DRAWING UP TENTATIVE PLANS LARGELY BASED ON SAME SCENARIO IT
DREW UP DURING FRANCO'S 1974 HEALTH CRISIS (SEE REFTEL). HE
DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE
IN SCENARIO.

2. IN EVENT OF FRANCO'S DEATH, FUNERAL WOULD STILL INCLUDE:
(A) 48 HOURS LYING IN STATE AT MADRID ROYAL PALACE; (B) WOULD
STILL BE FOLLOWED BY SOLEMN FUNERAL MASS AT MADRID CHURCH OF
SAN FRANCISCO EL GRANDE; (C) WOULD THEN BE FOLLOWED BY
FUNERAL PROCESSION THROUGH DOWNTOWN MADRID AND ALCALA AND
CASTELLANA STREETS; (D) BODY WOULD BE SHIFTED FROM HORSE-
DRAWN CEREMONIAL HEARSE TO FUNERAL CAR PART WAY OUT CASTELLANA
BLVD. AND DRIVEN TO PARDO PALACE; AND (E) ACTUAL BURIAL
WOULD TAKE PLACE AT PARDO (CISNEROS NOW TOTALLY DISCARDED
POSSIBILITY OF BURIAL AT VALLEY OF FALLEN).

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3. CISNEROS INDICATED GOS NOT EXPECTING HIGH-LEVEL DIGNI-

TARIES FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AT FUNERAL, AND WOULD NOT SOLICIT FOREIGN ATTENDANCE. HE ADDED FOREIGN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE SOMEWHAT CONTINGENT ON WISHES OF FAMILY, WHICH ARE NOT KNOWN YET. (NOTE: THIS RAISES POSSIBILITY GOS OR MRS. FRANCO MIGHT CONCEIVABLY NOT WANT SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN PARTICIPATION AT FUNERAL, BECAUSE OF EMBARRASSMENT CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE OF EUROPEANS MIGHT CAUSE.)

4. MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR'S REFTEL DEALS WITH POSSIBLE SCENARIO FOR SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF JUAN CARLOS. CISNEROS SAID PRESIDENCY OF GOVERNMENT IS INCLINED AGAINST HOLDING SWEARING-IN CEREMONY ON DAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FUNERAL AND THEIR IDEA WOULD BE TO HAVE AT LEAST TWO FULL DAYS INTERVENING BETWEEN FUNERAL AND SWEARING-IN CEREMONIES.

5. CISNEROS SAID HIS INFORMATION ON JUAN CARLOS' SWEARING-IN CEREMONY WAS MUCH MORE SPECULATIVE, BUT ADDED HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF, IN ADDITION TO ACTUAL SWEARING-IN CEREMONY WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE IN CORTES BUILDING, JUAN CARLOS HELD ONE OR TWO CEREMONIAL ACTS INCLUDING: (A) A MASS OF CERTAIN SOLEMNITY IN MADRID CHURCH, QUITE POSSIBLY IN SAN FRANCISCO EL GRANDE AGAIN; AND (B) A POSSIBLE RECEPTION FOR VISITING FOREIGN DIGNITARIES, GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT MADRID ROYAL PALACE.

6. THIS REPRESENTS LATEST THINKING AT PRESIDENCY OF GOVERNMENT FOR FUNERAL AND SWEARING-IN AND RELATED CEREMONIES. IT IS TENTATIVE AND NOT, REPEAT NOT, A FINAL SCENARIO APPROVED BY JUAN CARLOS, THE GOS, AND, FOR THE FUNERAL, MRS. FRANCO.
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